

Mitigating Latency and Bandwidth Constraints for Microsoft 365

The Latency Dilemma for Microsoft 365 Experience

Microsoft 365 is the dominant productivity suite choice for midsize and enterprise organizations, with **70% of Fortune 500 companies** using it. Midsize and large enterprises often experience latency and bandwidth challenges with Microsoft 365 because their complex networks introduce layers of security, routing, inspection and traffic bottlenecks that degrade the real-time cloud connectivity Microsoft 365 requires.

Latency and bandwidth constraints in Microsoft 365 impacts user experience, productivity and adoption for employees and IT operations alike. When Microsoft 365 responses lag or fail, employees experience slower workflows, inconsistent assistance and reduced trust in the tool.

Eliminating 50ms of latency on a 1Gbps network transforms a “fair” or “acceptable” connection into an “excellent” or “superior” one, significantly enhancing the responsiveness of real-time applications. Remote users, international locations, those on geo satellite links or highly congested, shared networks are particularly likely to be impacted by excessive latency.

The difference in reducing latency from 50ms to just 20ms can be the difference of having to go get a cup of coffee as your email loads and having it immediately available to read.

Business Challenge

Network latency and bandwidth constraints can create a wide range of issues for Microsoft 365 (formerly Office 365) users and IT support teams because the service is cloud-based and highly dependent on fast, stable connections.

For users, Microsoft 365 is supposed to increase productivity, but when latency and bandwidth constraints arise, it can impact this and create user frustrations.

Users most often complain that Microsoft Teams experiences choppy or robotic audio, delayed screen sharing, slow message or file delivery, and frequent call drops. But Teams isn't the only application affected.

Because of latency, users often experience slow sync, delayed send/receive, connection timeouts with Outlook mail, slow uploads and sync delays with OneDrive and SharePoint and slow authentication, sign-ins, MFA delays and admin tools.

For IT teams this results in exploding ticket volume and escalations that are difficult to troubleshoot since issues are difficult to replicate and users often struggle to correctly describe the problems.

This increases overall operational costs as IT teams end up spending more time and energy supporting Microsoft 365 performance than any other cloud service—simply because latency affects every workload.

Here are some key benefits in terms of performance:

- Faster application launch and authentication
- Faster file access for SharePoint/OneDrive
- Faster data transfers
- More responsive Outlook and Exchange
- Improved performance for Power BI

Reduce Latency to Accelerate Microsoft 365 with Riverbed

Riverbed's SteelHead SaaS is purpose-built to reduce cloud-app latency and optimize SaaS traffic, delivering up to 30x faster Microsoft 365 performance, including SharePoint Online and Exchange Online—services that Microsoft 365 heavily depends on for context and data.

Riverbed accelerators decrease bandwidth usage by removing redundant data, compressing payloads and reducing data transfers.

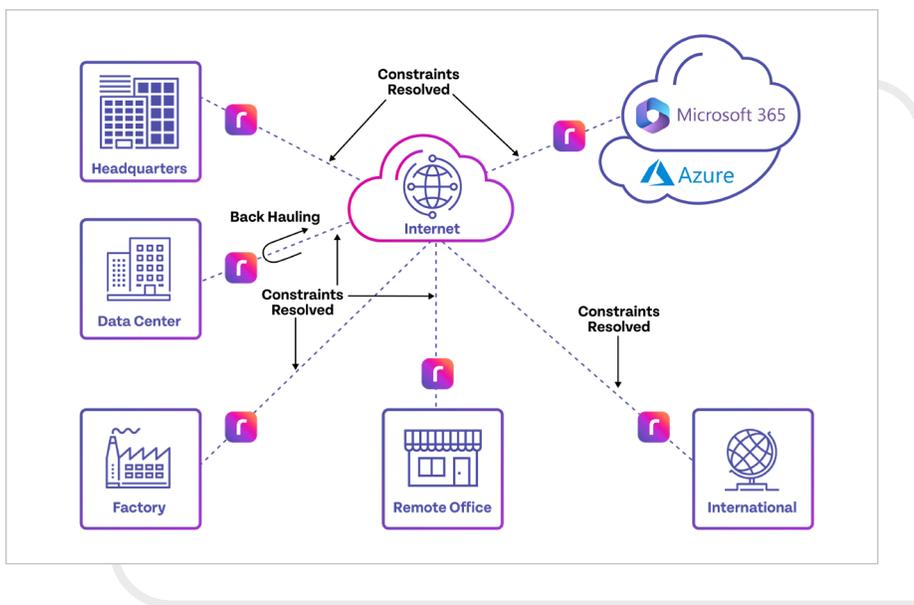
This means organizations can improve Microsoft 365 responsiveness without expensive bandwidth upgrades.

More than Just Better Performance

With the latest **RiOS 10 software**, SteelHead provides world-class acceleration for the modern enterprise. Beyond blazingly fast performance, you'll get:

- Leading security features, including **post-quantum cryptographic** acceleration
- **Portable licensing** that improves ROI and meets tomorrow's needs today
- Fine-grain **actionable insights** on data movement to make informed infrastructure decisions
- Ability to accelerate encrypted traffic with Keystone server
- And so much more.

Mitigating Latency and Bandwidth Constraints for Microsoft 365 with Riverbed SteelHead



Unleash Microsoft 365's Full Power: Accelerate Productivity with Riverbed

This is the moment for IT executives to transform network limitations into strategic capability. Riverbed doesn't just fix performance problems—it unlocks the full power of Microsoft 365.

To learn more [contact us](#) or visit us at riverbed.com.

Related: Learn how Riverbed Aternity can enhance Teams collaboration performance, troubleshooting and monitoring. Watch [video](#).